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number of (ecclesiastical) books were published in Yakut. After the 1905 revolution, artistic and journalistic literature in Yakut began to appear.

Nevertheless, education remained on a low level among the broad Yakut masses. There were no Yakut national schools. Russian church and state schools began to appear in Yakutiya in the 18th century, but there were very few of them. Even in the early 1900's, there were only 11 rural primary schools in all of Yakutiya, and 57 parish and literacy schools. The masses had little access to these schools, and still less to the secondary schools; there were only 5 of these, and they were located only in cities. Of the Yakuts, it was mainly the children of toyons who could get into them.

Nevertheless, even at the end of the 19th century, a small Yakut intelligentsia began to appear—teachers, officials, lawyers and doctors, who had chiefly received education at Tomsk University. From among this intelligentsia there emerged individual amateurs of local history and folklore—the first Yakut ethnographers and collectors. But by their class affiliation and ideology, these first Yakut intellectuals were inclined to the toyon camp, and were infected with nationalism. Alongside this bourgeois-toyon intelligentsia, there appeared in the last years preceding the October Revolution, under the influence of Social-Democratic and Bolshevist propaganda by political exiles (particularly in the circle led by Yemelyan Yaroslavskiy), a small nucleus of progressive Russian cultural workers.

Socialist Reconstruction

Formation of Yakut ASSR

In Yakutiya, just as throughout the country, the establishment of the Soviet regime involved a fierce struggle against internal and external enemies. In the autumn of 1918 power was seized in Yakutsk by the followers of Kolchak with the help of the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries.[6] Hardly had the Yakutsk workers had time to overthrow the counterrevolutionary regime of Kolchak (December 15, 1919) when there flared up, particularly in the autumn of 1921, the kulak and White Guard revolts, led by tsarist officers and Yakut toyons who had been hiding in the remoter areas.

On February 16, 1922, the Presidium of the VTsIK (All-Union Central Executive Committee) adopted a resolution on the formation of the Yakut ASSR. On April 27, 1922, the Presidium, with M. I. Kalinin in the chair, reviewed this question again and decreed as follows: "To form a Yakut Autonomous Soviet Republic as a federal part of the RSFSR with its administrative center in Yakutsk."

In the autumn of 1922 the young Yakut Republic was faced with a serious threat: the American and Japanese imperialists had moved up General Pepelyayev's troops into Yakutya from Manchuria. The General received half a million rubles in gold from the American firm of Olaf Svenson and the British Hudson's Bay Company. The Americans and Japanese equipped Pepelyayev with weapons, ammunition and equipment. Food supplies and weapons were the responsibility of the Japanese

[6] The Mensheviks were a dissident wing of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party (RSDRP), which was also the parent organization of the Communist Party. The Social Revolutionaries (SR's) were moderate agrarian socialists; they participated in the government during the first months after the October Revolution.—Ed.

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The Press

The printing of books in Yakutiya followed the decision of the Yakut government to introduce the Yakut language into schools in 1922. The next year a Yakut-language paper, Kyym (The Spark), began to come out and was later made into the oblast daily paper. 204 [214]

At the present time 25 regional newspapers are published in the Republic, of which 17 are in the vernacular.

The State Yakut Publishing House was set up in 1926. In its 25 years of activity it has published 2735 different books. The total number of copies amounts to more than 14,000,000. 214

Scientific Research

A tremendous amount of research work has been carried out in Yakutiya during the Soviet period. The USSR Academy of Sciences and a number of ministries concerned with industry have taken part in studying the natural resources of the country. 815

At the present time there are in Yakutiya 12 research establishments and a Pedagogical Institute which also conducts research. A tremendous amount of work has been done in the field of the hydrometeorological study of the Yakut ASSR, study of the permafrost and the fish and fur resources, agrotechnology under Yakutiyan conditions and so on. Extensive work has been carried out in the field of the arts as well. The Research Institute for Language, Literature and History of the Yakut ASSR was opened in 1935 and has continued the work of the local studies association. During the last war the institute switched from collecting research material to conducting major studies in Yakut history, folklore and language. The Yakut branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, part of which is the Language, Literature and History Institute, has a well-stocked collection of folklore, numbering about 10,000 texts. A great deal of work in collecting material on folk music has been done under the guidance of the first Yakut composer, the late M. N. Zhirkov. For a number of years Professor A. P. Okladnikov has been engaged in a systematic study of Yakut archaeology. The results of this study are summed up in the first volume of "The History of Yakutiya". 814

Folk Singers and Storytellers in Soviet Yakutiya

Following the Socialist Revolution, profound changes occurred in the oral folklore of the Yakut people. Many genres of the traditional folklore, such as shaman spells and chants, fell into disuse, while others continued on in a completely different form (singing at the ysyakh-kumys festival.) The heroic tales—olonkho—have remained the favorite form of oral folklore; they are frequently sung on the radio and at club concerts, and are included in other performances. The talented narrators of these epics, or olonkhosuts, are very popular among Soviet audiences. Many of them are members of the Union of Soviet Writers. There are now more than 400 such storytellers on the registers. 538